



Sheldon Garon

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**"Why do Some Nations Save so Much and Others
So Little?" A Transnational History of Thrift"**

**Friday, February 18, 2005
3:30 p.m.**

**Mershon Center for International Security Studies
Room 120**

Sheldon Garon (Ph.D., Yale) studies modern and contemporary Japan, with research interests in relationships between state and society, the links between culture and popular economic behavior, and locating Japan within a global or transnational history of ideas and institutions.

In his first book, *The State and Labor in Modern Japan* (1987), Garon uses the labor movement in Japan as a lens to examine the country's rapid transition, beginning in the late 19th century, from oligarchic rule to interwar democracy, wartime fascism, and the present postwar order. In *Molding Japanese Minds: The State in Everyday Life* (1997), Garon analyzes the modern Japanese state's remarkable success at mobilizing its people to act in the interests of prosperity and stability, for instance by holding down welfare costs, saving significant portions of their incomes, and helping to curb religious "cults." The book offers new historical explanations for Japan's postwar "economic miracle" and the nation's current reluctance to embrace American-style deregulation and consumerism. Professor Garon frequently comments in the media on contemporary developments in political economy.

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